

Cofey  
Report for year 1894

To the Urban District Council of Turton,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my annual report upon the Sanitary condition of your District, together with a summary of the sanitary work done, during the year 1894, the satisfactory character of which is, I am pleased to say, unexampled in the sanitary history of the district; the death rate, the infantine death rate and the Zymotic death rate, all being the lowest on record, whilst other <sup>portions</sup> ~~features~~ of my report present most favourable features.

The total number of births was 151, a decrease of 19 upon that of the previous year, and slightly below the average annual number.

The birth rate was 21.2 per thousand of population as against 23.9 per thousand in the year 1893.

The total number of deaths at all ages, and from all causes, was 77, the lowest on record; equal to a rate of 10.8 per thousand of population, as against 13.5 during 1893 and 15.5, the average for the past five years.

The number of deaths of children under 5 years in age was 24, and of infants under one year in age 11; the numbers for the year 1893 being 97 and 36 respectively. The mortality of infants in proportion to the births was at the rate of 72.8 per thousand, in comparison with 211.7 per thousand in 1893. The number of fatal cases of Zymotic diseases was 1 or a rate of 0.1 per thousand, the number and rate for 1893 being 20, and 2.8 respectively.

The Phthisis mortality was at the rate of 1.6 per thousand, and the Bronchitis mortality 2.8 per thousand, whilst in 1893, the former was 0.93, and the latter 5.07 per thousand.

The district was singularly free from epidemics of disease of any kind; the only instances of diseases of a Zymotic nature were as follows:-



Scarlatina - Six cases, isolated and in different parts of the district. No deaths registered.

Membranous Croup - Two cases with one death.

Erysipelas - Two cases - no deaths.

I have noted with satisfaction that the returns contained no deaths from Diarrhoe or kindred affections.

The adopted methods for the prevention of the spread of infection, when necessary, were home isolation, with subsequent fumigation, and stoving of wearing apparel.

The water supply during the year has been fairly good, but I would suggest that it is necessary to the public safety to have an additional filter bed constructed at Egerton, so that filtered water may still be delivered during the time occupied in cleansing and renewing the only existing filtering tank.

I would suggest to your Council the expediency of taking into consideration the present system of the disposal of excreta with a view to the abolition of the almost universal ashpit system. It is certainly desirable that all newly erected houses should be provided with one of the several methods of water carriage disposal.

I would also submit to your Council the need which exists for improvement in the construction of dwelling houses. In this connection I would recommend, that the subsoil of the land, upon which dwelling houses are to be erected, should be properly drained, that a damp course be introduced into the external walls of all new dwelling houses, that the external walls should be constructed with a cavity, and that a minimum number of three sleeping rooms should be provided in each.

I have systematically inspected your whole district upon four several occasions during the year, and I have called the attention of your Nuisance Inspector to insanitary conditions then discovered, and which have received prompt and careful rectification.

During the month of December I examined the carcase of a cow, dressed as if for sale as human food, but I failed to discover such

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unsoundness as would justify a condemnation of unfitness for human consumption.

Your Inspector reports that he has systematically inspected the Cowsheds and Dairies in your District. He states that, "the Cow- "  
"sheds and Dairies are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition"  
"and I have had little cause to complain; any whitewashing, "  
"stoppage of drains, etc., being attended to at once. The "  
"lowness of ceiling and other defects at Horridges farm, "  
"mentioned in my last year's report, have been remedied, "  
"although the farm is practically untenanted, being only used "  
"as poultry farm."

I enclose two tables, A and B. relating to the sickness and mortality of the District, together with your Inspector's report of the Sanitary work completed during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

*James Robinson M.D.*

Medical Officer of Health

February, 1895.





